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Contract #: DTPH56-06-T-000001
Prepared for: DOT
Project Title: Demonstration of ECDA Applicability and Reliability for Demanding Situations (Prj#195)
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This project includes the identification and demonstration of specific technologies to assess demanding pipeline situations (e.g., cased and non-cased crossings, pipe with no or shielded coatings, and segments with interferences from multiple pipes in right of ways). Demonstration of the capability and reliability of existing/proposed technology for these specific situations will result in a decision tree (protocol/recommend practice) of what direct assessment (DA) techniques and technologies are most effective for each situation. Special emphasis is being placed on guided wave ultrasonic inspection technology.

The results will include expected reliability numbers for defect identification. Quantitative, reproducible assessment results will be stressed. These results and recommendations will be fed into industry standards and recommended practices (e.g., ASME and NACE) to ensure the fastest possible implementation of research benefits -- improved safety, ability to assess pipeline segments that have no alternate method available (i.e., expand DA applicability), and increased reliability of the DA method. This project will includes support from a group of 23 gas company participants that will contribute pipeline segments for assessment, pipe inspection resources, and excavation and examination costs to demonstrate the DA technologies.

During the eighth quarter of the project, the following was completed:

1. Completed 2007 Annual Peer Review on May 1, 2008.
2. All case studies completed with data and write-up's submitted to DOT.
3. Protocol for Guided Wave (both Background & Technical Explanation and Field Implementation Sections) completed and submitted to DOT for review.

Future project activities will include:

- Combine Guided Wave Protocol, Case Study Write-ups, and Expected %-Reliability of Prediction Data/Tables into a *Draft* Final Report for DOT review.
- Address technical comments and submit a concise summary of the report to Chairs of ASME B31.8 and NACE STG-35 for committee review and possible transfer into the appropriate consensus standard(s).
- Address all technical comments and submit *final* report to DOT.

Mr. Daniel Ersoy
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